

few extending a short distance up the loose racemes. The ascending stems are sometimes branched, and then always from near the base. The pedicels are barely one third the length of the calyx. The flowers are blue, and very small, and the deeply five-cleft calyx is open in fruit.

Bentham, in the "Handbook of the British Flora," says of this plant, "Flowers in early summer, and dies soon after." How completely this is the case the writer had occasion to observe. The plant was first noted on May 23d, when it was at its best; on June 12th, only a few dried specimens were found, after diligent search.

There is a specimen of this plant in the Gray Herbarium, collected at Edmonton, Ontario, and also one from a cemetery at Ithaca, N. Y., where it is said to be abundant. As far as I am able to find out, this is its first appearance noted in New England. — EMILE F. WILLIAMS, Boston, Mass.

A NEW WILD LETTUCE FROM EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.

B. L. ROBINSON.

(Plate 2.)

AN interesting and noteworthy *Lactuca* has recently been discovered at Marshfield, Mass., by Mr. Charles H. Morss of Medford. In habit and color of corollas it resembles blue-flower specimens of *L. leucophaea*. From this species, however, it is clearly distinguished by its white pappus and broad, flat achenes, which are provided with a short but filiform beak. From our other eastern species, *L. canadensis*, *integrifolia*, and *hirsuta*, it differs not less markedly in its blue flowers and shorter-beaked, more numerous ribbed achenes. All efforts to identify the plant with southern or western types, or with any of the numerous species of the Old World, have proved unsuccessful, and it seems best to place it on record as a new type.

***Lactuca Morssii*.** Stem simple, strict, leafy, 1 to 3 m. high, somewhat hirsute toward the base: leaves runcinate-pinnatifid, mostly 5-lobed, 1.2 to 2 dm. long, about half as broad, borne upon broadly-winged cordate-clasping petioles; the lower leaves sparingly hirsute beneath, upon the midrib and wings of the petioles, otherwise, like the upper ones, quite glabrous; lobes shallowly dentate; terminal segment mostly deltoid or transversely rhombic, rather abruptly acuminate, or in the uppermost leaves provided with a lanceolate apical lobe: panicle ample, 5 to 6 dm. long; branches ascending; heads

very numerous, about 18-flowered; involucre campanulate at the base; bracts purplish tinged, the outer short, ovate, acutish, the inner lance-oblong, obtuse, 8 to 10 mm. long; corollas blue; pappus in the fresh plant pure white, in dried specimens with slight cream tint: achenes lanceolate, black, mottled with patches of brown in the manner of tortoise-shell, rather broadly margined and distinctly 3-ribbed on each face, 4 to 5 mm. long, exclusive of the short green filiform beak (1 mm. in length). — Collected on a reclaimed salt marsh at Marshfield, Mass., by Charles H. Morss, Aug. 14, 1898. Type in Herb. Gray.

In many respects this species shares the characters of *L. leucophaea* and *L. canadensis*, but its broad, thickly-set conspicuously cordate-clasping rather bluntly lobed leaves differ considerably from the ordinary northern forms of these species. Furthermore, the occurrence of natural hybrids between species of such dissimilar fruit-characters seems unlikely. Several specimens of *L. Morssii* were observed, and all maintained their characters with constancy; the achenes, seeds, and embryos were so perfectly developed as to leave little doubt of their fertility; and under these circumstances the writer does not feel warranted in resorting to an unsupported hypothesis of hybridity to account for the origin of this well-marked type.

It is highly improbable that *L. Morssii* is restricted to its Marshfield locality, and it is hoped that every reader, who has an herbarium of New England and Middle State plants, will examine his specimens of *Lactuca*, especially of *L. leucophaea* and *L. canadensis*, and see whether some of them may not prove to be of this new and interesting species, which may be readily recognized from the above characterization and the accompanying plate, kindly prepared by Mr. F. Schuyler Mathews.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE 2, — *Lactuca Morssii*, fig. 1, middle of stem; fig. 2, branches of panicle; fig. 3, head; fig. 4, achene. *Lactuca canadensis*, fig. 5, achene. *Lactuca leucophaea*, fig. 6, achene.

NOTES ON SOME FLESHY FUNGI FOUND NEAR BOSTON.

HOLLIS WEBSTER.

COMPARATIVELY speaking, the flowering plants of the New England States, and even their ferns and mosses, are well known. Yet, as an article in this journal shows, the discovery of novelties is still quite possible. If this can be said of the higher plants, it is still more conspicuously true of the lower forms.